

STATE OF ARIZONA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

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## **GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO WELCOMES FULL-DAY KINDERGARTNERS**

### **Sunnyslope Elementary School among the first to receive state funding**

PHOENIX - Governor Janet Napolitano today joined Sunnyslope Elementary School kindergarten students for the first day of school and followed her visit with a ceremonial signing of SB1405, the bill that allocated state funds to full-day kindergarten.

Sunnyslope Elementary is one of more than 130 Arizona schools that received state funding this year for voluntary full-day kindergarten programs. This year the state funded full-day kindergarten for elementary schools in which 90% of the student population is eligible for the free/reduced lunch program. An estimated 10,000 children will benefit.

This is the first year of a phase-in process designed to fund all-day kindergarten in all Arizona elementary schools in five years' time. The phase-in is dependent upon the State Legislature's allocation of funding for the next four years.

"Today's bill signing is a great moment for Arizona's schools and children, but it can't just be a moment - it's a process," Governor Napolitano said. "We have a lot more work to do before all of the parents in the state have the option of full day kindergarten for their children. With the Legislature's help, in five years we'll really have something to celebrate."

The Governor thanked the Legislators and community members who supported SB1405. Senator Linda Aguirre, one of the bill's biggest proponents, and several members of the business community joined her in her visit to Sunnyslope and her press conference. Senator Toni Hellon, another driving force behind the bill and the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, will appear with the Governor at a ceremonial bill signing in Tucson later in the fall.

This year the Legislature's General Fund allocation for full-day kindergarten included \$4 million for capital assets such as buildings and classrooms and \$21 million for programming, teachers and supplies.

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